

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN



NEWS HIGHLIGHT

**New Home for One ASEAN One Response**

NEWS STORY

**Briefing on the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020 and Introduction of the New AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre**

**ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management**

INSIGHTS

**Get to Know:  
The ASEAN Committee  
on Disaster Management (ACDM)**



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

VOLUME 25  
**2017**

Greetings fellow ASEANers!

We are excited to reveal this 25<sup>th</sup> edition. Starting back in 2015, we had a huge ambition to become the number one reference in disaster management in ASEAN.

Fast forward to 2017, the ambition has grown even bigger and we believe The Column shall not only become the number one reference in the ASEAN region, but also outside the region, as ASEAN thrives on becoming the global leader on disaster management and becoming the centre for excellence in disaster management.

In this edition, we are thrilled to take you all for a tour inside the new home of One ASEAN One Response – or in another word - our new office building. We'll take you inside the 'belly of this new beast': the brand new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and also the Knowledge Engine.

This month, we'll also take you on a tour, to get to know more about the National Disaster Management Offices throughout ASEAN. And of course, we'll also update you all on the exciting projects that we have been working for the past month.

In our signature 'The Other Side' section, we are delighted to have the opportunity to sit down with one of the most renowned humanitarian professionals, Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall, Head of the United Nations OCHA Liaison Office with ASEAN in Jakarta. He will be sharing his experience and outlook regarding disaster management, ASEAN-UN partnership and of course – the much anticipated – 'Dynamic Simplicity'.

Lastly, we are always open to suggestions, comments or anything you wish to share with us. You know the drill right? Drop us an e-mail to comm@ahacentre.org and we'll do the rest.

Sincerely,

The Column Editor

- **Editor in Chief & Managing Editor**  
Ms. Adelina Kamal
- **Editor**  
Andri Suryo
- **Writer & Researcher**  
Ananda Gabriella
- **Creative Director**  
Mardian Y Chandra
- **Graphic Design**  
Eric Budiharto

 **The Column** is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre - capturing the latest activities from the organisation.

# New Home of One ASEAN One Response

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre) launched our new office as the new home of One ASEAN One Response in late December 2016. As the home of One ASEAN One Response, it is our pleasure to welcome our guests and partners.

The new home of One ASEAN One Response is provided by the Indonesian Government through the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia (or BNPB) as part of Indonesia's commitment as the host country and Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and Governing Board of the AHA Centre in 2016. Our office is located at Jl. Raya Pramuka Kav. 38, East Jakarta 13120, Indonesia, within the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the BNPB building. Ms. Adelina Kamal, the Deputy Executive Director of the AHA Centre and Acting Executive Director, hosted all of the visits of our guests and partners to the new office throughout the past month.

Among the first guests of the AHA Centre were H.E. Willem Rampangilei, Chief of BNPB Indonesia as Chair of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) for 2016, and Mr. Dody Ruswandi, Secretary-General of BNPB Indonesia as Chair of the ACDM and the Governing Board of the AHA Centre for 2016. It was an honour and pleasure for the AHA Centre to welcome them and host a grand tour of our new office for them.

The AHA Centre also had the privilege to show the new facilities at the AHA Centre to the Indonesian Minister of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, H.E. Asman Abnur, who was accompanied by H.E. Willem Rampangilei, Chief of BNPB Indonesia. Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, hosted the visit and provided a brief explanation regarding the ASEAN Disaster Monitoring Response System and the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System.

During the first weeks of January, she also hosted the visit of Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall, Head of the United Nations OCHA Liaison Office with ASEAN in Jakarta, and colleagues from World Vision International, who is a member of a consortium of international NGOs, known as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Group (APG).

The AHA Centre also welcomed the visit of the World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Director

for Asia, Mr. David Kaatrud. WFP is the UN lead agency and AHA Centre's counterpart for disaster preparedness and response component of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan on Disaster Management (JSPADM) 2016 – 2020. Mr. David Kaatrud and Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, exchanged views on opportunities to enhance collaboration between the two organisations.

The most recent visit was the one from Mr. Joseph D. Martin, Director of the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) of the US Pacific Command, accompanied by the US Mission to ASEAN, who visited the AHA Centre to convey their interest to continue working with the AHA Centre. CFE-DMHA, based in Hawaii, USA, worked with the AHA Centre in 2014 to deliver a module on exercise planning for the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme.

As part of our quests to become the centre for excellence on disaster management in ASEAN, the AHA Centre has placed great importance to knowledge and innovation management, which is also one of ASEAN priorities in disaster management. For that reason, the new office of the AHA Centre is now equipped with a library, called the "Knowledge Engine", which features a collection of the most recent reference books in the field of disaster management. We have a collection of books on disaster management produced by ASEAN and the AHA Centre, as well as a variety of publications produced by ASEAN Member States and our partners. The Knowledge Engine has become a favourite spot for our staff and guests. Fresh ideas often come from books!

Besides "The Knowledge Engine", the new AHA Centre's office also proudly houses the new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC provides a central location for the AHA Centre to perform its disaster monitoring and coordination functions. The new and expanded EOC features all disaster monitoring systems used by the AHA Centre to track and monitor incidents throughout the region, manage its emergency stockpile, and prepare for deployments to disaster incidents in the region.

The AHA Centre is now at the beginning of a new journey to become the centre for excellence on disaster management and emergency response. We believe that this goal can be achieved if we work together with the support of ASEAN Member States and our partners, under the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.



(From left to right) Mr. Belkacem Benzaza (UNHRD/WFP Advisor to the AHA Centre), Ms. Adelina Kamal (Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre), Mr. David Kaatrud (WFP Regional Director for Asia) and Ms. Anthea Webb (WFP Indonesia Country Director)



- 1 Indonesian Minister of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, H.E. Asman Abnur (right), welcomed by the Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal (left)
- 2 (From left to right) H.E. Willem Rampangilei, Chief of BNPB Indonesia and Chair of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) for 2016, Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, and Mr. Dody Ruswandi, Secretary-General of BNPB and Chair of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for 2016.
- 3 Visit of the World Vision International to the AHA Centre
- 4 The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the AHA Centre's new office in Graha BNPB
- 5 Group photo at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the new Home of the One ASEAN One Response
- 6 "The Knowledge Engine"
- 7 Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, provided brief explanation during the grand tour in the new office
- 8 Briefing on the AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and the AHA Centre's emergency kits by the AHA Centre's Operations Division Officer, Mr. Yos Malole
- 9 AHA Centre together with colleagues from CFE-DMHA of the US Pacific Command and US Mission to ASEAN

Legend:

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

## NEWS STORY

### Briefing on the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020 and Introduction of the New AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre

On 24 January 2017, the AHA Centre conducted a briefing on the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020 and introduction of the new AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to the Ambassadors of ASEAN Dialogue Partners and representatives from partner countries, United Nations, Red Cross and civil society organisations. In this occasion, Lao PDR and Malaysia as Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre for 2017, as well as Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) as host country and ASEAN Secretariat, joined the AHA Centre for the briefing.

Following the briefing, Mr. Arnel Capili, AHA Centre's Director of Operations, introduced the AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and the operational systems used by the AHA Centre in monitoring and responding to disasters. The Government of Japan supported the AHA Centre in the establishment of the new EOC.

A discussion regarding future collaboration between the AHA Centre and the European Union (EU) under the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020 was also held earlier that day. The EU Ambassador to ASEAN and members of the AHA Centre's Governing Board participated in the discussion. ASEAN and EU will commemorate 40th year anniversary of dialogue relations this year. ASEAN and EU established dialogue relations 10 years after the establishment of ASEAN in 1967.



1 H.E. Francisco Fontan, EU Ambassador to ASEAN (left), Mr Vilayphong Sisomvang, Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department of Lao PDR as Chair (middle) and Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre (right)

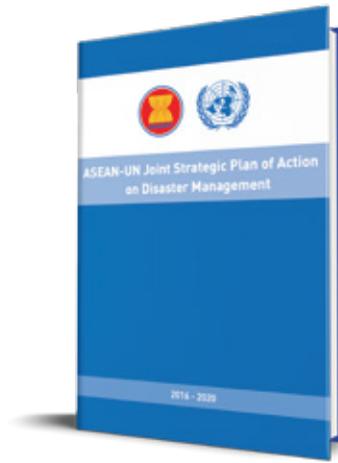
2 H.E. Francisco Fontan, EU Ambassador to ASEAN, visited the AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and was received by Mr. Arnel Capili, AHA Centre's Director of Operations (left), AHA Centre's officers Mr. Dandi Rahman and Mr. Yos Malole (wearing brown vests), and Mr. Mohd. Zahari bin Razali, Director of Policy and Planning Division of Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency (right)

3 Mr. Arnel Capili, AHA Centre's Director of Operations introduced the AHA Centre's EOC and operational systems

4 Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre (right), welcomed H.E. Marie-Louise Hannan, Canada's Ambassador to ASEAN, to the home of One ASEAN One Response.

## NEWS STORY

### ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management



The cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations (UN) on disaster management commenced in 2004. Guided by the AADMER Work Programme (2010-2015), the ACDM and the UN decided to articulate the collaboration through the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (JSPADM) in 2012. The current version of the JSPADM, which is the third iteration, outlines ASEAN and the UN's mutual intentions and commitments to continue working together, guided by the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

The AADMER Work Programme identifies eight (8) Priority Programmes, and each of the Priority Programmes is supported by various UN agencies. In order to facilitate a single point of contact for each of the Priority Programmes, the UN has assigned a lead UN agency to coordinate UN's support and inputs for each Priority Programme and to work with the ASEAN's operational counterpart. For example, UN OCHA serves as the UN lead agency for Knowledge and Innovation Management (KIM) and will coordinate UN's inputs for the AADMER Priority Programme no. 8 on Lead (i.e. ASEAN Leadership for Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Management) and work with the AHA Centre as the ASEAN's operational counterpart.



Scan the QR code from mobile phone to download the complete version of JSPADM III or download via the link below:

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/ROAP/Partnership/ASEAN-UN%20JSPADM%20\(2016-2020\)\\_final.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/ROAP/Partnership/ASEAN-UN%20JSPADM%20(2016-2020)_final.pdf)

The medium- to long-term goal of this partnership is to ensure appropriate capacity and cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle, to engage with and understand the policies and priorities of national leadership, and to reduce the requirement for international support and assistance in the event of large-scale disasters in ASEAN Member States.

## INSIGHTS

### Get to Know: The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)

The Heads of the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) serve as the Focal Points of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). The ACDM also serves as the Governing Board of the AHA Centre. The ACDM is the driving force behind the creation and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). The ACDM is also the founding fathers of the AHA Centre.

In this edition of The Column, we would like to introduce the Heads of the NDMOs of the ASEAN Member States to provide our readers with information on how the NDMOs play a pivotal role in the disaster management cooperation in ASEAN.

#### Brunei Darussalam



##### Abdul Rahim Bin Hj Ismail

Acting Director, National Disaster Management Centre Ministry of Home Affairs

##### Address:

Ministry of Home Affairs Berakas BB 3510 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

##### Website:

<http://ndmc.gov.bn/Theme/Home.aspx>

#### Cambodia



##### H.E. Mr. Ma Norith

Deputy Secretary-General National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

##### Address:

New Building, Street 516, Khan Russey Keo, 12105 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

##### Website:

<http://www.ncdm.gov.kh/>

#### Indonesia



##### Mr. Bernardus Wisnu Widjaja

Deputy for Prevention and Preparedness National Disaster Management Authority

##### Address:

Graha BNPB Jalan Pramuka Kav. 38 Jakarta Timur P.O Box 13120, Indonesia.

##### Website:

<http://www.bnpb.go.id/>

#### Lao PDR



##### Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh

Director-General of Social Welfare Department Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

##### Address:

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Social Welfare Department, Pangkham Road, Chanthabuly District

#### Malaysia



##### Dato' Zaitun Ab Samad

Director-General National Disaster Management Agency

##### Address:

Prime Minister's Department Level 7. Block D5. Complex D Putrajaya 62502, Malaysia

##### Website:

<http://portalbencana.ndcc.gov.my/portal>

#### Myanmar



##### Dr. Ko Ko Naing

Director-General Relief and Resettlement Department

##### Address:

Building No. 23 Special Development Zone Naypyidaw City, Myanmar

##### Website:

[www.rrdmyanmar.gov.mm](http://www.rrdmyanmar.gov.mm)

#### The Philippines



Under-Secretary **Ricardo B. Jalad**

Executive Director National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and Administrator Office of Civil Defense

##### Address:

Office of Civic Defense Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

##### Website:

<http://www.oed.ndrrmc.gov.ph/>

#### Singapore



##### Mr. Eric Yap Wee Teck

Commissioner Singapore Civil Defence Force

##### Address:

Singapore Civil Defence Force 91 Ubi Avenue 4

##### Website:

[https://www.scdf.gov.sg/content/scdf\\_internet/en.html](https://www.scdf.gov.sg/content/scdf_internet/en.html)

#### Thailand



##### Mr. Chatchai Phromlert

Director-General Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

##### Address:

3/12, U-Thong Nok Rd Dusit, Bangkok, Thailand

##### Website:

<http://www.disaster.go.th/en/contact.php>

#### Viet Nam



##### Mr. Van Phu Chinh

Director Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (DNDPC)

##### Address:

Building A4, No 02 Ngoc Ha Str, Ba Dinh dist, Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

##### Website:

<http://phongchongthientai.vn/default.aspx>



*“We, as humanitarian actors, need to be ready for any possible changes, to adapt our approach to delivery of humanitarian assistance accordingly.”*

**Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall**

*Head of United Nations OCHA Liaison Office with ASEAN, in Jakarta*



THE OTHER SIDE is a special column where we interview professional players in disaster management. Crafted with light discussion in a casual manner, THE OTHER SIDE captures the human side, up close and personal. This section does not necessarily reflect or represent AHA Centre's point of view.

*From a very young age, Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall has worked on humanitarian issues. Over 30 years of experience in this field has helped him to be a passionate and enthusiastic leader who constantly emits sincerity in all that he does. Through this month's edition of The Other Side, Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall, Head of UNOCHA's Liaison Office with ASEAN, based in Jakarta, inspired The Column with his thought-provoking and encouraging sharing of experience.*

**How did you get into this humanitarian field?**

My grandmother was the reason. I left school when I was 18 years old, then I went off to university in England in 1981 but left after only one year, realising that I had made the wrong choice in my course of study. And one day, my wonderful but very strict grandmother told me that I had to do something instead of nothing – it was either go back to university, or find a job.

At that time, the Vietnamese boat people crisis was at its height and the United Kingdom was receiving many thousands of people from the camps in SE Asia. These people were processed in reception centres for three to six months after they arrived for cultural orientation, language training, and waiting for availability of housing.

I was 19 years old when I volunteered to help a UK non-governmental organisation in one of the reception centres in the South of England. I stayed there for three years. As I had been studying for a teaching degree, I taught English to arriving boat people.

And then I moved to that head office of the NGO just outside London where I was the Assistant to the Executive Director for three years. The NGO was called Ockenden Venture and it was, at that time one of the three NGOs in England that handled Vietnamese refugees.

After that, I went to Hong Kong to examine the situation in the Vietnamese Boat People camps there. While I was there, I was offered a job in Hong

Kong, so I thought, why not? I started working for the Save the Children Fund in Hong Kong and then moved, after a year, to join the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and I have been with the UN since then.

**In relation to the multi-year partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, if you could break it down into particular elements, what would be the formula behind the positive thrust of this partnership?**

I think it has been an evolutionary process that has been carefully managed by a small group who now know each other relatively well. I think we are at the point where we need to increase and institutionalise the trust level from personal to organisational. Difficult – but essential for the long-term perspective and durability of the partnership.

As organisations we are now quite familiar with each other's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We have a regular, open dialogue and are honest with each other about those strengths and weaknesses. My sense now is that we have both invested heavily in this relationship and that this investment is leading to positive outcomes not only for the partnership but also for the people we are here to serve. We need to keep that going – which means more honest conversations, more joint deployments, more jointly planned exercises and greater clarity on respective roles, as well as the chance to argue, disagree, negotiate and, ultimately, improve.

**Please tell us something about the term 'dynamic simplicity'?**

It started in a meeting in Singapore now more than 5 years ago, when one of the participants asked a question regarding the legal status of the relationship between OCHA and the AHA Centre. And Mr. Said Faisal, former of Executive Director of the AHA Centre answered “ we do not yet have those documents, because we have agreed that it is better for us to first figure out how we work together and then to write it down, rather than the other way around”.

So, dynamic simplicity is basically about doing something that, if it goes well, you write it down. If it goes badly, you do not write it down and you test other methods to do it until you succeed, and then you write it down. That is why, over these five years of partnership between the AHA Centre and OCHA, we do not have any kind of memorandum of understanding between us. This means that we provide each other with constructive and honest feedback after exercises and every response that we are involved in and we use that as the basis of our learning. At the institutional level the UN and ASEAN have an Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership between the two organisations, which we use as the general framework for our engagement but for the operational engagement we use the 'dynamic simplicity' model.

**You have been to many places in the world to do your job, from which I may say, your personal passion in the humanitarian field is apparent. Do you ever feel like the job is done? Or do you wish to have another opportunity to do the job differently in the future?**

I do not think the job is ever done, because the world is an imperfect and evolving place, in a constant state of unrelenting change. Often people are scared of change, and sometimes change drives conflict, and people react to that. So as long as the change goes on, the world will continue to be imperfect.

What the UN aims to do is to support Member States and other actors to ensure international peace and security to the extent that is possible. This is an endless process, subject to change as much as anything else is. We, as humanitarian actors, need to be ready for these changes, to adapt our approach to delivery of humanitarian assistance accordingly.

The partnership between OCHA and ASEAN is also a manifestation of change – where we see a very different approach to the one that was in

place in the ASEAN region even five years ago. Five years from now it will be different once again – and probably in ways that we cannot even guess at right now. My hope is that this change will encompass ASEAN's engagement in a broader range of humanitarian issues than the current focus on, primarily, disaster management.

My enthusiasm for my work is also rooted in who I work with and in this context engaging with ASEAN, whether the AHA Centre, Secretariat or ACDM, fires my enthusiasm as I see the commitment of ASEAN friends to develop ASEAN's capacity. It is amazing to see how far the ASEAN Member States have evolved within the past years, especially in the disaster management field. But I also worry, and specifically that those people who are involved in disaster management in this region, and those who control the purse strings do not always share common goals or objectives. Investment in insuring ASEAN against future threats needs to be higher on the political and financial agenda amongst ASEAN Member States; making sure ASEAN's humanitarian instruments, and particularly the AHA Centre, are ready to address future threats is key.

**When a leader such as yourself speak in the public, you spark the inner passion that you have in order for us as humanitarian officers to do better, or even just to remind ourselves that what we are doing now is about helping people. What would be the important points for us who wish to follow your professional path in this field to have the same dedication and passion that you have?**

You need to know your business – take time to really study the area of work that you are involved in. Humanitarian work, by its very definition is complex, complicated, and difficult...and highly political. Our job is more often than not to navigate the politics in order to do our job – deliver assistance and protection to people in need. Recognising this reality is perhaps the most essential thing any humanitarian worker can do.

It is interesting that you brought up the communication aspect. I think I communicate the way I communicate because I am enthusiastic about my work. I believe that OCHA adds value to international humanitarian action and that, here in the ASEAN region, we have a significant role to play in engaging with you for the furtherance of the ASEAN humanitarian project – and I mean “humanitarian” in its broadest sense.

And my final thought would be that in the humanitarian world, no matter how bad the situation is, you have to believe that you will and can make a difference, and you have to be able to communicate that you believe that you will and can make a difference.

# One **ASEAN** One **Response**

## About ASEAN

*The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN among others are to accelerate the economic growth, social progress, cultural development, to promote regional peace and stability as well as to improve active collaboration and cooperation.*

## About The AHA Centre

*The AHA Centre is an inter-governmental organisation established on 17 November 2011, through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of State / Government from 10 ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Centre was set-up to facilitate the cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the United Nations and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in the ASEAN region.*

## About AADMER

*The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a legally-binding regional policy framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilisation in all aspects of disaster management in the 10 ASEAN Member States. The objective of AADMER is to provide an effective mechanism to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic and environmental assets, and to jointly respond to emergencies through concerted national efforts.*

### Talk To Us:

 [www.ahacentre.org](http://www.ahacentre.org)

 @ahacentre

 aha centre

 @ahacentre

### THE AHA CENTRE

Graha BNPB  
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Jakarta - 13120 - INDONESIA

[comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org)

SUPPORTED BY:



Japan-ASEAN Cooperation



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE